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EDC 102

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Chapter 2 and 3 Reflection

Chapter 2 and 3 of the textbook talks about the history and the founding of education in the western world. We see the development of Greek and Roman schooling. Something that stood out to me here was from Roman educator Quintilian. He said how study should empower the learner and that rewards should be given that are appropriate from his age. This is highly relevant today with the best teachers being able to motivate their students to succeed. Also how teachers at the elementary level will give out stickers, pencils or other prizes when the child performs well. The Renaissance philosopher Erasmus talked about the importance of being a well-rounded student. He labeled piety, liberal arts, good social conduct, and morality should be taught in schools. It is important to note that at this time education was not separated from religious studies as the Catholic Church dominated this sphere. So today piety or morality would be replaced by “ethics” in a public school environment.

Another important connection is how different education in African American communities is between white communities. Segregation was a part of American education until Brown vs. Board of Education in 1954. This was supposed to end segregation of public schools but in reality not much has change especially in urban school districts which are dominated by minority ethnic groups.

Increased Federal involvement in public schooling is a connection that is clearly visible in second half of the twentieth century as well as today. The end of WWII brought about the GI Bill which helps veterans returning from war to attend higher education. During the Cold War it was believed that the United States as losing the space to the Soviet Union. A result of this was the beginnings of STEM funding or, science, technology, engineering, or math. To help improve these fields that was crucial to keep us ahead of the Soviets efforts. No Child Left Behind is a program started in 2002 designed to provide highly qualified teachers to the classroom. Success would be measured by national tests that given to students. Federal aid to school districts would be based on how well they performed on tests. The idea was that students and teachers would step and achieve huge success but this has brought teachers teaching to the test not on the skills students really need. While test scores have improved mildly in some areas man areas especially urban environments continue to experience hardships.